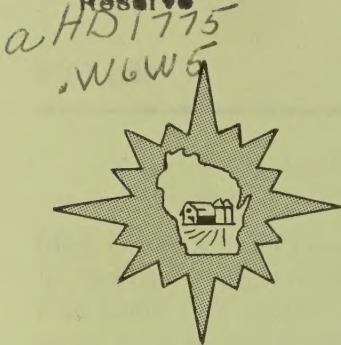


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WISCONSIN Farm Reporter

- Dairy
- Crops
- Livestock

Vol. V, No. 7

May 1973

Cream of the News

Wisconsin's milk production during April was down 1 percent from a year earlier.

Lower prices for livestock, milk, and some crops resulted in a 2 percent decline in the prices received index for Wisconsin farm products from mid-March to mid-April.

Production of butter and cheese in the Nation during March was below the previous year and weekly estimates indicate a continuation of the lower output in April.

Income from milk sales in Wisconsin during 1972 was 9 percent higher than 1971 and exceeded one billion dollars for the first time.

Red meat output in Wisconsin's commercial slaughter plants during March was down 4 percent from last year.

Wisconsin farmers reported paying a record price of \$30.90 a head in April for feeder pigs averaging 40 pounds, an increase of \$9.20 from a year ago and \$18.85 above two years ago.

Production of Italian cheese in Wisconsin during 1972 was up 8 percent from 1971 and more than triple the output in 1957.

Milk prices received by Wisconsin farmers during April are expected to decline seasonally 2 cents from March but at \$5.97 a hundredweight would be 56 cents above April last year.

Meat stocks in the Nation's cold storage facilities at the end of April were down 13 percent from a year earlier as a decline in pork stocks offset an increase in beef.

Wholesale prices of Swiss and cheddar cheese at Wisconsin assembly points continued upward from March to April.

Prices of barrows and gilts at the St. Paul market declined \$2.00 from March to April.

Stocks of butter and cheese in cold storage in the Nation at the end of April were below a year ago.

MILK PRODUCTION BELOW LAST YEAR

Production of milk on Wisconsin farms during April totaled 1,748 million pounds, down 1 percent from a year earlier. Milk production increased seasonally 1 percent from March to April. Output per cow averaged 960 pounds in April, 5 pounds less than in April 1972. For the first four months of 1973, milk production in Wisconsin was about 1 percent below the comparable period last year.

The annual quantity of grain and other concentrates fed to Wisconsin milk cows during 1972 totaled 3,728,000 tons, a decline of 4 percent from 1971. Dairymen in the State fed an average of 4,070 pounds of grain and concentrates per milk cow in 1972, down 100 pounds from the previous year. The average value per 100 pounds of concentrate ration fed to milk cows was \$3.27 for 1972 compared with \$3.22 in 1971.

Milk Production

Selected States	April 1972	April 1973	Jan.-April 1973	Change from last year	
				April	Jan.-April
	Million pounds			Percent	
Wisconsin	1,768	1,748	6,573	- 1	- 1
Minnesota	920	902	3,462	- 2	- 3
Iowa	400	396	1,482	- 1	- 2
New York	931	887	3,326	- 5	- 6
Pennsylvania	614	596	2,250	- 3	- 6
California	882	920	3,415	+ 4	+ 3
Other states	5,118	5,039	18,986	- 13	- 2
United States	10,633	10,488	39,494	- 1	- 2

The Nation's milk production of 10,488 million pounds in April was nearly 1½ percent below a year ago. Daily average output increased 5 percent from March, the same gain as in the corresponding period last year. Milk production in the Nation during the first four months of this year was about 2 percent below the comparable months in 1972. Output per cow averaged 910 pounds in April, up 4 pounds from the previous year. Total grain and concentrates fed to milk cows during 1972 was slightly higher than in 1971. The average value of concentrate ration fed to milk cows was \$3.52 per 100 pounds, an increase of 8 cents from 1971.

WISCONSIN STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE

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LESS AMERICAN CHEESE AND BUTTER IN STORAGE

Cold storage stocks of butter and American cheese in the Nation at the end of April were down from a year ago. The 243½ million pounds of American cheese in cold storage on April 30 were 1 percent under last year. This was the first time that American cheese stocks were below the previous year since April 1972. Stocks of Swiss cheese at the end of April were up 18 percent from a year earlier but all other cheese stocks were down 21 percent.

The Nation's butter stocks in cold storage on April 30 totaled 125 million pounds, 2 percent lower than a year ago. Butter stocks decreased by about 3 million pounds from April 30, 1972. The Government held 99½ million pounds of butter in cold storage at the end of April, an increase of 4 percent from the previous year.

Cold Storage Stocks of Butter and Cheese

Commodity	April 30, 1971	April 30, 1972	April 30, 1973	Change from last year
1,000 pounds				Percent
UNITED STATES				
Butter.....	180,403	128,524	125,355	- 2
Cheese, American.....	248,009	246,380	243,589	- 1
Cheese, Swiss.....	11,600	7,766	9,128	+ 18
Cheese, all other.....	54,967	57,565	45,314	- 21
Cheese, total.....	314,576	311,711	298,031	- 4
WISCONSIN				
Butter.....	5,830	5,621	8,089	+ 44
Cheese, American.....	149,872	141,546	157,371	+ 11
GOVERNMENT STOCKS*				
Butter.....	158,184	95,644	99,462	+ 4
Cheese, American.....	601	649	135	- 79

*Included in above totals.

**Manufacturers' Stocks of Other Dairy Products
United States**

Commodity	March 31, 1971	March 31, 1972	March 31, 1973	Change from last year
1,000 pounds				Percent
Dried whole milk.....	3,865	4,297	3,410	- 21
Dried skim milk.....	76,578	62,989	39,071	- 38
Dried buttermilk.....	7,028	4,125	4,683	+ 14
Condensed milk and evaporated milk (case goods) 1/...	67,631	61,176	35,622	- 42

1/Combined to avoid disclosing individual plant operations.

— PUBLISHED MONTHLY —

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MILK PRICE IN SEASONAL DECLINE

Milk prices received by Wisconsin farmers during April are expected to average \$5.97 a hundredweight for all milk of average test delivered to plants and dealers. This would be a seasonal decline of 2 cents from March but 56 cents above April last year. In 1972 milk prices declined 9 cents from March to April.

All milk sold in March averaged \$5.99 a hundredweight, 4 cents above February and 49 cents more than March 1972. Milkfat content for March averaged 3.70 percent compared with 3.73 percent a year earlier.

Grade A milk producers received an average of \$6.13 a hundredweight in March, a gain of 3 cents from February and 46 cents higher than last year. Manufacturing grade milk averaged \$5.82 a hundredweight for March, up 6 cents from a month earlier and 53 cents above the previous year. The price spread between market and manufacturing grade milk was 31 cents in March compared with 38 cents in March 1972.

Milk Prices 1/

Selected States	February 1973		March price per cwt.			April 1973 price per cwt. 2/
	Average test	Price per cwt.	1972	1973	73/72 change	
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Dollars
Milk for all uses						
Wisconsin.....	3.73	5.95	5.50	5.99	+ 9	5.97
Minnesota.....	3.61	5.59	5.12	5.63	+ 10	5.60
Iowa.....	3.78	5.83	5.41	5.87	+ 9	5.85
New York.....	3.61	6.85	6.05	6.60	+ 9	6.35
California.....	3.76	6.05	5.62	6.10	+ 9	5.95
United States....	3.74	6.56	6.01	6.52	+ 8	6.38
Wisconsin utilization						
Market milk.....	3.73	6.10	5.67	6.13	+ 8	xxx
Manufacturing milk	3.72	5.76	5.29	5.82	+ 10	xxx
Creameries.....	3.72	5.62	5.17	5.65	+ 9	xxx
Cheese factories..	3.72	5.78	5.31	5.84	+ 10	xxx
Varied prod. plants	3.72	5.67	5.20	5.73	+ 10	xxx

1/Preliminary average buying prices received for milk of average test. They differ from basic buying prices which are for 3.5% milk. 2/Based on preliminary information for milk of average test.

Wisconsin 3.5 Test Milk Prices 1/

Utilization	March 1972	February 1973	March 1973 2/	Change from last year
	Dollars per cwt.			Percent
Milk for all uses.....	5.16	5.58	5.67	+ 10
Market milk.....	5.31	5.72	5.80	+ 9
Manufacturing milk.....	4.99	5.42	5.51	+ 10
Creameries.....	4.92	5.29	5.36	+ 9
American cheese plants.....	5.01	5.45	5.53	+ 10
Varied products plants.....	4.93	5.33	5.42	+ 10
Federal Order Markets				
Chicago Regional Base Zone....	5.62	6.02	6.07	+ 8

1/Computed equivalents. 2/Preliminary.

VALUE OF MILK SALES EXCEEDS A BILLION DOLLARS IN 1972

Preliminary estimates show that cash receipts for milk sold by Wisconsin farmers in 1972 exceeded one billion dollars for the first time. Income from milk sales in 1972 was 9 percent higher than in 1971. Milk prices averaged 25 cents a hundredweight more in 1972 than a year earlier and total pounds of milk sold from farms increased by over 4 percent.

Of the 19,638 million pounds of milk produced on Wisconsin farms during 1972, farmers marketed 97 percent and kept 3 percent for use on their farms. Milk production in 1972 was 4 percent greater than in 1971 and was about 1½ percent above the previous record output in 1964.

In the past ten years, the number of milk cows on Wisconsin farms declined by 318,000 but milk marketed in-

creased by more than a billion pounds. Annual milk production per cow averaged 10,719 pounds in 1972, a gain of 2,069 pounds from ten years ago. Cash receipts from the sale of milk increased by nearly \$451 million from 1962 to 1972. Milk prices for 1972 averaged \$5.56 a hundredweight compared with \$3.41 for 1962.

Disposition and Sales of Milk Produced, Wisconsin, 1954-72

Year	Total milk production	Milk fed or consumed on farms where produced				Milk sold from farms				
		Fed to calves	Consumed in the farm household		Total	To plants and dealers		Direct to consumers	Total	Value of sales
			As milk and cream	As farm butter		As cream	As milk			
	Million pounds									1,000 dollars
1954	16,273	629	399	9	1,037	156	15,040	40	15,236	491,546
1955	16,482	626	388	9	1,023	130	15,294	35	15,459	499,996
1956	16,922	626	379	9	1,014	100	15,773	35	15,908	535,392
1957	17,433	604	355	9	968	90	16,345	30	16,465	557,428
1958	17,956	594	349	7	950	50	16,926	30	17,006	557,478
1959	17,815	577	335	6	918	50	16,817	30	16,897	555,615
1960	17,780	545	320	5	870	40	16,840	30	16,910	588,459
1961	17,931	515	302	4	821	30	17,050	30	17,110	609,158
1962	18,598	490	286	3	779	20	17,770	29	17,819	609,297
1963	18,597	475	277	2	754	14	17,800	29	17,843	610,199
1964	19,358	460	267	2	729	10	18,590	29	18,629	646,243
1965	18,841	445	257	1	703	9	18,100	29	18,138	645,514
1966	18,052	430	240	1	671	5	17,350	26	17,381	741,953
1967	18,219	415	229	1	658 1/	5	17,530	26	17,561	763,812
1968	18,210	400	209	—	609	5	17,570	26	17,601	807,717
1969	18,051	384	210	—	594	2	17,430	25	17,457	851,741
1970	18,435	383	196	—	579	1	17,830	25	17,856	915,774
1971	18,848	386	182	—	568	—	18,260	20	18,280	970,059
1972*	19,638	379	180	—	559	—	19,060	19	19,079	1,060,039

*Preliminary. 1/Includes some milk used for other purposes on farms or not utilized.

WHOLESALE CHEESE PRICES CONTINUE TO INCREASE

Wholesale prices of Swiss and cheddar cheese at Wisconsin assembly points continued upward from March to April. Block Swiss cheese, Wisconsin State Brand, averaged 81½ cents a pound during April. This was an increase of almost 2 cents from the previous month. Wholesale prices of Swiss cheese have risen every month since July 1972. The April wholesale price of Swiss cheese was 9 cents higher than a year ago. Cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks averaged 65¾ cents a pound at Wisconsin primary markets during April, up more than ½ cent from March and almost 8 cents above April 1972.

Wholesale prices of 93-score butter at New York averaged 62.78 cents a pound for April, down more than 2 cents from March and about 6 cents below last year.

Wholesale Dairy Prices

Commodity	April 1972	March 1973	April 1973 1/
Butter, 93-score, New York, pound . . .	68.75¢	64.96¢	62.78¢
Cheese, Cheddars, Wisconsin primary markets, 40 lb. blocks, pound 2/ . . .	57.94¢	65.19¢	65.75¢
Cheese, Swiss, Wisconsin State Brand, block pound 2/	72.50¢	79.65¢	81.50¢
Evaporated milk, North Central States, case, 48-14½ oz. cans, range	\$7.70-9.10	\$8.65-10.10	\$ — — —
Nonfat dry milk solids, spray, Chicago area, pound	31.46¢	41.99¢	43.98¢

1/Preliminary estimates. 2/Selling prices, f.o.b. at Wisconsin assembly points.

AMERICAN CHEESE AND BUTTER PRODUCTION EXPECTED TO REMAIN LOWER

Weekly estimates indicate that production of American

cheese and butter in the Nation during April could remain below a year earlier. The National output of American cheese may be down 1 percent from April 1972. Production of American cheese in the first quarter of 1973 was 2 percent under the same quarter last year. Wisconsin's production of American cheese during April will be higher than a year ago after showing a decline of 1 percent in the first quarter of 1973.

Output of butter in the Nation during April will be down about 16 percent from the previous year. Butter production from January through March was 12 percent below the comparable period in 1972. Wisconsin creameries also churned less butter in April than a year ago based on weekly estimates. The State's butter output in the first quarter of 1973 was 3 percent lower than in January-March 1972.

Recent Changes in Butter and Cheese Output

Periods	Butter			American Cheese		
	United States		Wisconsin	United States		Wisconsin
	Production 1973	Change from last year	Change from last year	Production 1973	Change from last year	Change from last year
	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent
March	90,646	- 15	- 6	142,668	- 3	- 4
Jan.-March	271,225	- 12	- 3	386,316	- 2	- 1
Weeks ending						
April 5	21,300	- 18	- 12	34,200	- 2	+ 2
April 12	20,650	- 19	- 5	34,200	- 3	- 1
April 19	21,400	- 16	- 9	36,050	n. c.	+ 4
April 26	22,150	- 14	+ 1	36,900	n. c.	+ 5
May 3	22,100	- 14	- 9	37,600	+ 1	+ 8
Total	107,600	- 16	xxx	178,950	- 1	xxx

1972 ITALIAN CHEESE PRODUCTION HIGHER

Production of Italian cheese in Wisconsin during 1972 totaled over 179 million pounds, up 8 percent from 1971. Since 1957, output of Italian cheese in Wisconsin has more than tripled. Italian cheese accounted for 17 percent of all cheese made in Wisconsin during 1972, the same as 1971 but nearly double the 1957 level of 9 percent.

Production of Mozzarella, a soft type cheese used in the pizza trade, increased 8 percent from 1971 to 1972. Since 1957, Mozzarella has experienced the largest growth in production of any of the Italian varieties. Mozzarella production in 1972 was more than 9 times the 1957 output and nearly 3 times what was produced in 1961. Mozzarella is by far the largest variety of Italian cheese made in Wisconsin, accounting for 57 percent of the total Italian cheese production.

Italian Cheese Production by Varieties in Wisconsin

Variety	1961	1964	1970	1971	1972
Thousand pounds					
HARD					
Asiago.....	459	1,155	479	365	1/
Parmesan.....	17,108	22,275	17,353	20,522	25,157
Provolone.....	21,959	24,184	32,334	32,689	36,390
Romano.....	13,570	13,493	13,240	14,570	12,205
Other Hard.....	53	317	2,409	3,019	3,339
Total Hard.....	53,149	61,424	65,815	71,165	77,091
SOFT					
Mozzarella.....	39,022	48,011	87,617	93,100	102,344
Other Soft 2/.....	2,482	1,174	911	1,301	3/
Total Soft.....	41,504	49,185	88,528	94,401	102,344
All Italian.....	94,653	110,609	154,343	165,566	179,435

1/Combined with other. 2/Excludes Gorgonzola, formerly published as an Italian cheese. 3/Less than 2,000,000 pounds of other soft included with Mozzarella.

Provolone production increased 11 percent from 1971 to 1972 while total hard type Italian cheeses increased 8 percent. Provolone is the second leading variety of Italian cheese produced in the State, making up 20 percent of the total. It accounted for 47 percent of the hard type Italian cheeses produced in 1972. Parmesan experienced the largest gain in production from 1971 to 1972 with an increase of 23 percent.

The production of hard types of Italian cheese in 1972 was up 8 percent from the previous year. Output of soft types also increased 8 percent from 1971 to 1972. Soft types represented 57 percent of all Italian cheese produced in Wisconsin during 1972 compared with only 22 percent in 1957. Mozzarella accounts for almost all of the soft Italian cheese production.

BUTTER AND CHEESE PRODUCTION CONTINUE LOWER IN 1973

Production of butter and cheese in the Nation during March continued below a year earlier. The Nation's butter production for March was 15 percent under last year. This was the eighth consecutive month that output of butter was lower than the previous year. Wisconsin creameries churned 6 percent less butter in March than a year ago. Sharp declines of 23 percent for Minnesota and 20 percent for Iowa were contributing factors in the lower butter production for the Nation. All other states also had a drop of 14 percent in output of butter compared with March 1972.

American cheese production in the Nation during March was 3 percent below last year. Wisconsin cheese factories manufactured 66 million pounds of American cheese in March, down 4 percent from the previous year. Minnesota increased its output of American cheese 10 percent from March 1972, but Missouri was down 23 percent and all other states declined 5 percent.

With the decline in American cheese production, total cheese output in the Nation for March was 2 percent under a year earlier. Varieties showing increases were Swiss 4 percent, Brick and Muenster 9 percent, and Italian 1 percent. All other varieties were down 6 percent from March last year.

The Nation's production of cottage cheese curd during March was up 1 percent from a year ago but output of creamed cottage cheese declined 4 percent. Ice cream production in the Nation during March was 2 percent more than the previous year.

Current Dairy Products Estimates

Item and area	March 1972	March 1973	Jan.- March 1973	Change from last year	
				March	Jan.-Mar.
	1,000 pounds			Percent	
BUTTER					
Wisconsin	19,460	18,370	52,120	- 6	- 3
Minnesota	26,900	20,800	59,200	- 23	- 22
Iowa	8,150	6,500	18,450	- 20	- 22
Other states	52,265	44,976	141,455	- 14	- 8
United States	106,775	90,646	271,225	- 15	- 12
CHEESE, AMERICAN					
Wisconsin	68,800	66,350	178,650	- 4	- 1
Minnesota	18,200	19,950	56,050	+ 10	+ 12
Missouri	6,600	5,100	15,300	- 23	- 11
Other states	54,115	51,268	136,316	- 5	- 7
United States	147,715	142,668	386,316	- 3	- 2
CHEESE, MISCELLANEOUS					
United States					
Swiss	14,965	15,599	44,205	+ 4	+ 5
Brick and Muenster	5,870	6,393	17,510	+ 9	- 1
Italian	44,180	44,824	127,490	+ 1	+ 3
All other	18,105	17,035	47,609	- 6	- 3
Total	83,120	83,851	236,814	+ 1	+ 2
ALL CHEESE					
United States	230,835	226,519	623,130	- 2	- 1
OTHER PRODUCTS					
Cottage Cheese					
United States					
Curd 1/	73,715	74,161	204,789	+ 1	+ 2
Creamed 2/	98,305	94,678	261,746	- 4	- 2
	1,000 gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream					
Wisconsin	1,690	1,480	4,230	- 12	- 5
Illinois	3,250	3,800	10,700	+ 17	+ 26
Iowa	745	750	1,770	+ 1	- 5
Michigan	3,190	3,400	8,960	+ 7	+ 7
Minnesota	2,500	2,645	7,205	+ 6	+ 7
Other states	53,925	46,444	146,011	- 14	n. c.
United States	65,300	66,958	178,876	+ 3	+ 2

1/Includes cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese with percent. 2/Includes cheese with a milkfat content of less than 4 to 19 percent.

FARM PRODUCT PRICES LOWER IN MID-APRIL

Prices received by Wisconsin farmers for all farm products sold during the month ending April 15 were down 2 percent from a month earlier. Lower prices for cattle, calves, hogs, lambs, milk, oats, and alfalfa hay were responsible for the decline in the prices received index. However, at 440 percent of the 1910-14 base, the index of prices received was 84 points (24 percent) higher than mid-April 1972.

Steers and heifers averaged \$42.00 a hundredweight as of April 15, down 50 cents from March but \$11.50 above last year. Slaughter cows, at \$32.70 a hundredweight in April, were 30 cents under the previous month but \$8.70 more than a year ago. The drop in beef cattle prices from a month earlier was the first decline since November 1972.

Hogs averaged \$34.60 a hundredweight as of mid-April, down almost \$3.00 from March but \$12.10 higher than April last year. This also was the first decline in hog prices since November.

Calves brought an average of \$56.00 a hundredweight for the month ending April 15, down \$2.00 from the previous month but \$9.00 above a year ago. Sheep increased in price from March to April but lambs were lower. At \$9.00 a hundredweight for April, sheep were up 50 cents from March and \$3.20 more than last year. Lambs returned \$33.00 a hundredweight as of mid-April, a decline of \$1.00 from a month earlier but \$5.70 greater than April 1972. The mid-April wool price of 69 cents a pound was the highest since December 1951. Wool prices increased 3 cents from March to April and were more than triple a year ago.

Prices Received by Wisconsin Farmers

Commodity	Unit	April 1971	April 1972	March 1973	April 1973
Dollars					
Milk cows.....	Head	395.00	440.00	540.00	570.00
Steers and heifers..	Cwt.	28.40	30.50	42.50	42.00
Cows.....	Cwt.	21.00	24.00	33.00	32.70
Calves.....	Cwt.	40.10	47.00	58.00	56.00
Hogs.....	Cwt.	16.30	22.50	37.50	34.60
Sheep.....	Cwt.	6.70	5.80	8.50	9.00
Lambs.....	Cwt.	26.50	27.30	34.00	33.00
Wool.....	Lb.	.24	.22	.66	.69
Chickens 1/.....	Lb.	.085	.090	.120	.120
Turkeys.....	Lb.	.200	.210	.280	.280
Eggs.....	Doz.	.290	.230	.470	.470
Corn.....	Bu.	1.45	1.15	1.32	1.32
Oats.....	Bu.	.74	.70	.85	.82
Soybeans.....	Bu.	2.69	3.35	6.00	6.05
Alfalfa hay, baled..	Ton	22.00	23.00	34.50	32.50

1/Excludes broilers.

Eggs, at 47 cents a dozen for April 15, were unchanged from the previous month but 24 cents more than last year. Turkeys also remained the same as in March, but at 28 cents a pound liveweight were 7 cents above April 1972.

Prices of oats and baled alfalfa hay continued to decline for the third consecutive month. Oats averaged 82 cents a bushel in mid-April, down 3 cents from March but 12 cents higher than a year ago. Baled alfalfa hay averaged \$32.50 a ton in April, a decline of \$2.00 from the previous month but \$9.50 above last year.

Corn prices remained unchanged from March to April but soybeans increased 5 cents a bushel. Corn, at \$1.32 a bushel for mid-April, was 17 cents higher than a year earlier. Soybeans averaged \$6.05 a bushel for April, up \$2.70 from the previous year and a record price.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION BELOW A YEAR AGO

Wisconsin's commercial slaughter plants produced 103 million pounds of red meat during March, 4 percent less than a year ago. Although output of beef was up 13 percent, pork

production was 21 percent below March 1972.

The March cattle kill of 102,000 was 13,000 more than a year earlier. Average liveweight of cattle was 1,124 pounds for March, down 15 pounds from last year.

Hog slaughter in March totaled 274,000, a decline of 80,000 from March 1972. Hogs averaged 238 pounds liveweight for March, a gain of 5 pounds from the previous year.

Calf slaughter during March totaled only 17,500 compared with 24,400 a year ago. Calf liveweight, at 171 pounds in March, was 2 pounds heavier than March 1972. The March sheep and lamb kill of 100 was just half of the number butchered a year earlier.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter

Area	Number			Liveweight	
	March		Change from last year	March	
	1972	1973		1972	1973
	1,000 head		Percent	Million pounds	
Cattle					
Wisconsin	89.0	102.0	+ 15	101.4	114.6
United States 1/ ..	3,037.3	2,879.5	- 5	3,161.7	2,985.1
Calves					
Wisconsin	24.4	17.5	- 28	4.1	3.0
United States 1/ ..	319.3	224.9	- 30	73.0	54.5
Hogs					
Wisconsin	354.0	274.0	- 23	82.5	65.2
United States 1/ ..	8,409.4	7,032.9	- 16	1,992.9	1,664.8
Sheep and lambs					
Wisconsin2	.1	- 50	.020	.009
United States 1/ ..	948.4	736.9	- 22	102.5	81.2

1/Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

FEEDER PIG PRICES REACH NEW HIGH

Wisconsin farmers reported paying an average of \$30.90 in April for feeder pigs averaging 40 pounds. This price was \$6.10 more than the previous high in January 1973. A year ago feeder pig prices in Wisconsin averaged \$21.70 and two years ago averaged only \$12.05 for a 40 pound pig. Feeder pig prices in Wisconsin have been on the increase since January 1971 when they were at a low of \$9.35.

Wisconsin Feeder Pig Prices and Weights 1/

Year	January	April	July	October
Dollars per head				
1965.....	10.50	12.10	13.00	15.15
1966.....	20.65	20.00	16.60	16.30
1967.....	14.50	14.75	15.20	14.90
1968.....	13.70	15.40	15.10	15.20
1969.....	14.00	16.40	17.80	19.00
1970.....	21.50	24.50	18.80	12.60
1971.....	9.35	12.05	12.80	14.30
1972.....	18.50	21.70	23.30	23.50
1973.....	24.80	30.90		
Pounds per head				
1965.....	42	40	40	40
1966.....	41	40	40	41
1967.....	42	41	41	41
1968.....	42	40	41	41
1969.....	41	41	41	41
1970.....	41	39	40	40
1971.....	41	40	40	41
1972.....	41	40	40	40
1973.....	41	40		

1/Prices paid by farmers and weights are average for the month as reported by Wisconsin Crop Correspondents.

Dairy Production and Markets Summary, 1972 1/

Item	Unit	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual 2/
WISCONSIN														
Milk cows (000)	Head	1,832	1,832	1,832	1,832	1,832	1,832	1,832	1,832	1,832	1,832	1,832	1,831	1,832
Milk production (000,000)	Lb.	1,548	1,539	1,759	1,768	1,896	1,924	1,740	1,594	1,493	1,502	1,392	1,483	19,638
Milk prices (cwt.)														
All uses	Dol.	5.48	5.48	5.50	5.41	5.36	5.30	5.36	5.46	5.62	5.81	5.93	5.99	5.56
Market milk	Dol.	5.66	5.65	5.67	5.59	5.53	5.45	5.50	5.60	5.79	5.94	6.04	6.12	5.71
Manufacturing milk	Dol.	5.27	5.28	5.29	5.19	5.15	5.14	5.20	5.29	5.40	5.64	5.77	5.80	5.37
Creameries	Dol.	5.18	5.19	5.17	5.14	5.12	5.11	5.13	5.20	5.34	5.48	5.60	5.63	5.27
Cheese factories	Dol.	5.29	5.29	5.31	5.20	5.16	5.15	5.21	5.30	5.41	5.67	5.82	5.82	5.38
Varied products plants	Dol.	5.22	5.22	5.20	5.16	5.25	5.12	5.16	5.23	5.34	5.53	5.66	5.70	5.32
Butter production (000)	Lb.	16,900	17,540	19,460	20,450	22,500	21,430	17,500	13,850	12,070	13,400	12,700	14,260	202,060
American cheese prod. (000)	Lb.	56,000	56,000	68,800	68,200	74,300	78,300	73,100	64,600	57,000	55,000	48,800	51,300	751,400
Ice cream prod. (000)	Gal.	1,375	1,400	1,690	1,460	1,640	2,060	1,950	1,850	1,730	1,500	1,300	1,400	19,355
Cold storage stocks (000) (end of month)														
Butter	Lb.	3,290	4,240	4,774	5,621	7,570	9,433	9,829	9,684	8,467	6,531	5,377	4,168	78,984
American cheese	Lb.	134,397	132,945	147,298	141,546	157,635	182,691	208,923	207,356	202,587	199,533	184,802	173,250	2,072,963
Calf slaughter (000)	Head	28.0	28.0	24.4	19.3	17.1	15.3	13.2	14.1	14.1	17.2	19.4	22.6	233.0
Cattle slaughter (000)	Head	91.0	90.0	89.0	82.0	90.0	93.0	90.0	96.0	90.5	98.5	97.0	101.0	1,108.0
UNITED STATES														
Milk cows (000)	Head	11,773	11,762	11,749	11,739	11,728	11,715	11,700	11,689	11,681	11,673	11,662	11,652	11,710
Milk production (000,000)	Lb.	9,701	9,448	10,487	10,633	11,303	10,983	10,450	9,982	9,443	9,460	8,987	9,401	120,278
Milk prices (cwt.)														
All uses	Dol.	6.13	6.10	6.01	5.88	5.76	5.66	5.78	6.01	6.23	6.42	6.55	6.55	6.09
Market milk	Dol.	6.46	6.45	6.32	6.18	6.05	5.96	6.09	6.34	6.58	6.75	6.87	6.85	6.41
Manufacturing milk	Dol.	5.08	5.06	5.06	5.00	4.93	4.89	4.90	4.97	5.08	5.25	5.40	5.49	5.09
Creameries	Dol.	5.00	4.95	4.96	4.92	4.86	4.79	4.80	4.91	5.02	5.16	5.34	5.43	5.01
Cheese factories	Dol.	5.18	5.16	5.17	5.05	5.00	4.98	5.01	5.10	5.20	5.39	5.51	5.60	5.20
Condensaries	Dol.	4.97	4.93	4.78	4.68	4.58	4.53	4.61	4.63	4.70	4.88	5.01	5.03	4.78
Cattle slaughter (000)	Head	209.2	276.6	318.9	239.1	235.9	224.5	214.0	257.6	243.7	259.1	253.6	239.1	3,051.3
Cattle slaughter (000)	Head	2,888.4	2,774.1	3,035.4	2,763.4	3,118.7	3,143.8	2,753.4	3,211.5	3,045.7	3,192.0	2,986.0	2,866.8	35,779.2
Dairy products output (000)														
Butter	Lb.	101,475	99,390	106,775	110,250	119,416	111,146	89,436	76,277	65,363	75,921	73,153	80,951	1,109,553
American cheese	Lb.	123,960	122,885	147,715	153,890	172,149	176,361	164,211	145,645	124,983	118,073	106,911	116,013	1,672,796
Swiss cheese	Lb.	13,900	13,250	14,965	14,585	14,915	16,519	14,235	14,203	15,994	14,676	13,855	17,249	178,346
Brick and Muenster cheese	Lb.	5,830	5,900	5,870	5,655	5,691	5,633	5,592	5,594	5,294	5,346	5,319	5,303	67,962
Limburger cheese	Lb.	240	195	235	210	200	229	153	231	221	216	230	230	2,538
Italian cheese	Lb.	38,500	40,930	44,180	41,585	43,855	43,017	38,857	39,318	37,541	41,201	39,459	43,467	491,910
All other cheese	Lb.	16,555	14,175	17,870	15,570	14,032	16,117	14,780	14,698	15,673	17,755	19,161	22,481	198,867
Total cheese	Lb.	198,985	197,335	230,835	232,095	250,842	257,896	237,828	220,004	199,706	197,267	184,883	204,743	2,612,419
Ice cream	Gal.	53,780	57,080	65,300	62,395	70,171	80,090	76,057	80,338	72,432	61,669	55,133	51,882	786,327
Cottage cheese, curd	Lb.	62,835	64,620	73,715	65,030	71,848	68,382	64,531	66,571	64,104	64,531	60,299	56,812	783,296
Cottage cheese, creamed	Lb.	83,225	86,115	98,305	87,370	96,164	91,783	86,567	87,429	83,778	85,016	77,927	74,583	1,038,262
Cold storage stocks (000) (end of month)														
Butter	Lb.	81,825	93,272	110,104	128,524	159,105	195,934	210,663	198,406	178,409	154,740	132,517	107,470	1,750,969
American cheese	Lb.	237,083	229,498	226,707	246,380	275,042	307,789	341,201	341,935	335,777	314,175	291,670	269,438	3,416,695
Swiss cheese	Lb.	6,636	7,052	7,103	7,766	8,824	8,926	7,855	8,500	9,322	8,225	7,784	8,122	96,115
All other cheese	Lb.	48,086	48,856	53,506	57,565	56,513	59,579	58,499	59,269	58,911	56,905	54,139	53,884	665,712
Total cheese	Lb.	291,805	285,406	287,316	311,711	340,379	376,294	407,555	409,704	404,010	379,305	353,593	331,444	4,178,522
Government stocks														
Butter	Lb.	58,106	64,615	74,800	97,521	123,637	163,524	171,216	171,170	159,657	131,046	111,121	90,702	1,417,115
American cheese	Lb.	3,415	1,409	948	640	435	483	1,501	256	295	312	205	174	10,073
Manufacturers' stocks (000) (end of month)														
Dried whole milk	Lb.	4,597	3,933	4,297	5,289	6,079	7,503	7,144	5,951	5,394	4,823	4,695	3,351	63,056
Dried skim milk	Lb.	77,074	64,588	62,989	79,367	98,520	107,966	108,964	87,801	65,933	48,941	35,660	38,724	876,527
Dried buttermilk	Lb.	3,458	4,024	4,125	5,024	6,013	6,192	5,192	3,788	3,325	3,130	2,521	2,717	49,509
Evaporated & sweetened condensed milk, whole, case														
Wholesale dairy prices														
Butter, 92-score, New York	Cent	68.75	68.75	68.75	68.75	68.75	68.75	68.75	70.36	71.00	70.84	70.31	71.47	69.61
Cheddar cheese, 40 lb. blocks (pound) 3/	Cent	58.50	58.69	59.65	57.94	57.75	57.99	59.33	60.11	60.02	61.14	63.01	63.75	59.82
Swiss cheese, state brand, block (pound) 3/	Cent	70.50	70.50	72.50	72.50	72.50	72.50	72.50	73.00	73.50	74.25	75.86	76.00	73.01
Evaporated milk, case North Central States, Av. ..	Dol.	8.40	8.40	8.40	8.40	8.40	8.39	8.39	8.40	8.60	8.60	8.60	8.63	8.47
Nonfat dry milk, spray, Chicago area (pound)	Cent	31.31	31.41	31.44	31.46	31.36	31.37	31.45	31.67	31.83	33.70	34.99	37.36	32.45

1/ Latest data available April 23, 1973. 2/ Annual total or average. 3/ Selling prices f.o.b. Wisconsin assembly points.

SPRING FIELD WORK PROGRESSING SLOWLY

Heavy precipitation during April and the first half of May made spring field work very difficult on Wisconsin farms. During a mild March some farmers were plowing and seeding oats. Prospects for an early spring were diminished when rain began to fall in the first few days of April. These rains were then followed by a record April snow storm which dumped more than a foot of snow on most of Wisconsin except the northwest on April 8-9. Additional heavy rain fell during the period of April 15-21. A week of dry weather from April 22-28 allowed farmers in the west and south to plant most of their oats but farmers in the north and east were just getting on the land when more heavy rain fell during April 29-May 2. Showery weather persisted up to mid-May. Except for the northwest area which was missed by much of the precipitation in April, the rest of the State averaged 5 to 7 inches above normal rainfall from April 1 to May 13.

As of mid-May, about 40 percent of the oat acreage in the State had not been seeded. North central, northeast, and the east were particularly late on planting oats. Of the past 17 years, only the 1960 and 1965 crop seasons were as late as this season has been. Lowlands are under water and it is questionable when or if these lands will be planted. Heavier soils were slow in drying out because of the high water tables. Early seeded oats was doing well except where too much water caused erosion problems.

A year ago sunny, warm, and dry weather during most of May allowed planting to accelerate rapidly after a late spring start. This year only half of the spring plowing was done by mid-May. With fall plowing severely curtailed in 1972, there was a lot of ground to prepare for planting this spring. Farmers in southern and western Wisconsin had a little corn planted in early May but activity was just beginning to pick up about the middle of the month. Less than 5 percent of the corn acreage in the State had been planted prior to mid-May compared with 10 percent done a year ago.

Growth of pastures and hay fields has been slowed by cool temperatures. Moisture is plentiful for fast growth if warmer weather ever arrives. Although pastures are good enough to support grazing, not many herds were out yet because of soft conditions from all the rain. Old hay stands appear to be in better shape than some of the new seedings which have been reported as poor. The late oat harvest in 1972 made it difficult for new seedings to get established and some smothered out when farmers were unable to get the straw off. Winterkill was not nearly as severe as in the previous year. Where new seedings were able to get established, farmers are anticipating a good first crop of hay. Alfalfa on low ground however has suffered from too much water.

Planting of vegetable crops was behind schedule this spring due to the wet fields. Some of the early peas may not be planted because of the lateness of the season. Tobacco beds have been planted and seem to be coming along in good condition. Winter grains such as wheat and rye survived the winter in fine shape and are doing very well. Soil moisture is mostly surplus in all areas of Wisconsin. Water has been seen in places where it has not been noticed in other years and some old timers say they do not recall a spring this wet.

Wisconsin was not alone in experiencing spring planting problems because of the weather. April was extremely wet in the North and South Central regions of the Nation, with record flooding throughout the Mississippi River drainage area. Planting of corn and cotton has been delayed well past the normal schedule. As of early May, plowing of corn and soybean land in the North Central States was only about 45 percent complete compared with about 70 percent a year ago. By May 6, approximately 6 percent of the intended corn acreage in the Corn Belt States had been planted. While this was only slightly behind last year's late start when 9 percent of the acreage was planted, it was well behind the normal progress of 30 percent planted at that date.

MEAT STOCKS CONTINUE LOWER

Stocks of all meat in cold storage in the Nation at the end of April were 13 percent below a year earlier. Meat stocks have been under the previous year since December 1971. Although supplies of beef in cold storage on April 30 were up 27 percent from last year, pork stocks were down 36 percent.

Beef stocks amounted to 360½ million pounds at the end of April, a gain of 3 million pounds from March and 77½ million pounds above a year ago.

There were 251½ million pounds of pork in cold storage on April 30, an increase of 10 million pounds from a month earlier but 144 million pounds below last year. Frozen pork bellies, at 52 million pounds on April 30, were 60 percent less than on that date in 1972.

Cold Storage Stocks of Meat
United States

Commodity	April 30, 1971	April 30, 1972	Mar. 31, 1973	April 30, 1973	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds				Percent
Beef:					
Frozen	282,607	272,837	346,188	350,937	+ 29
In cure and cured	7,652	10,177	11,250	9,658	- 5
Total	290,259	283,014	357,438	360,595	+ 27
Pork:					
Frozen	441,076	374,298	224,134	236,482	- 37
In cooler	22,545	21,488	17,458	15,147	- 30
Total	463,621	395,786	241,592	251,629	- 36
Other meats and meat products:					
Veal, frozen	9,192	8,939	11,742	13,237	+ 48
Lamb and mutton, frozen.	20,221	15,205	10,963	13,226	- 13
Canned meats in cooler:					
Hams	63,290	94,128	49,043	57,503	- 39
Other meats	19,537	21,910	15,978	16,880	- 23
Total, all meats	866,120	818,982	686,756	713,070	- 13

STEER PRICES LOWER

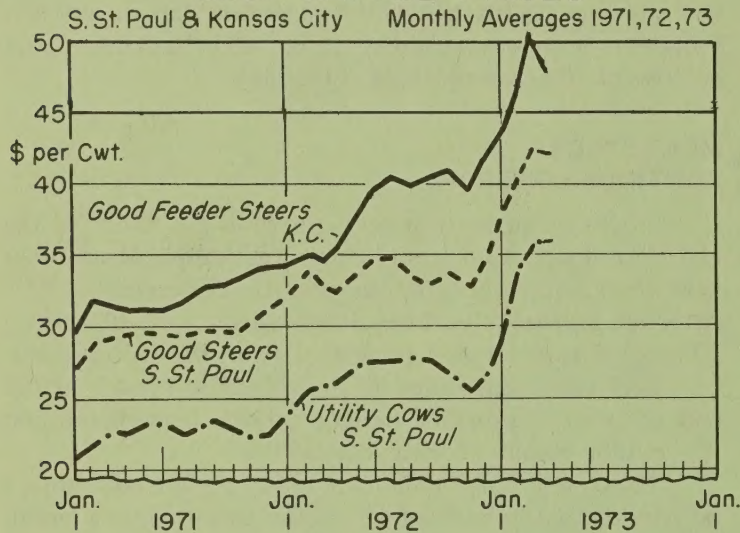
Prices of good grade fed steers weighing between 900-1100 pounds averaged \$42.16 a hundredweight at the St. Paul market during April. This was a decline of 52 cents from March and the first month since November 1972 that fed steer prices declined. However, the average for April was still more than \$10.00 above last year.

Good grade feeder steers weighing between 600-700 pounds averaged \$48.00 a hundredweight at the Kansas City

market in April, down \$2.31 from March and also the first decline in feeder steer prices since last November. A year ago good grade feeder steers at Kansas City averaged \$35.20 a hundredweight.

Utility cow prices at St. Paul increased from March to April. The April average of \$35.71 a hundredweight was up 21 cents from the previous month and \$9.60 above a year earlier.

BEEF CATTLE PRICES

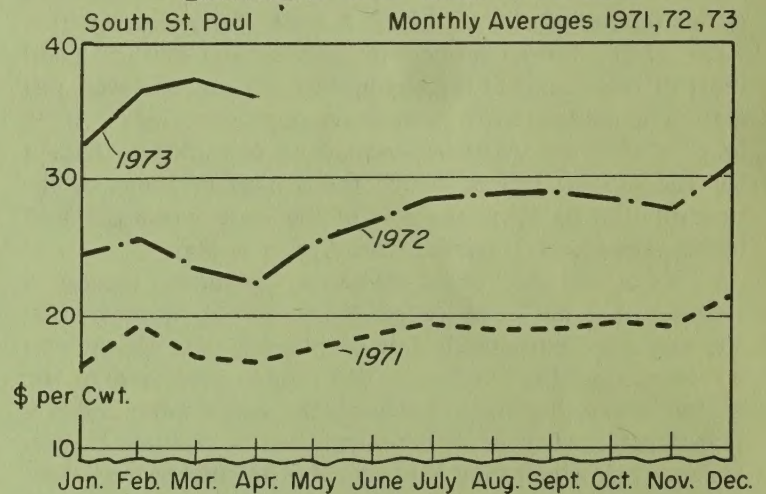


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BARROWS AND GILTS DOWN \$2.00

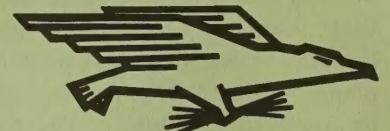
Prices of barrows and gilts at the St. Paul market during April averaged \$35.70 a hundredweight, a decline of \$2.00 from March. This was the first time in five months that prices of barrows and gilts were lower than the preceding month. A year ago barrows and gilts averaged only \$22.84 a hundredweight for April.

BARROW and GILT PRICES



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